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**SPHERICAL HYDROUS GEL**

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**Abstract**

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**PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED:** To obtain the subject gel useful for waste water treatment, excellent in living for microorganisms, hardly causing deterioration, improved in durability, comprising an acetalized polyvinyl alcohol.

**SOLUTION:** This spherical hydrous gel comprises an acetalized polyvinyl alcohol. The gel preferably contains a polymer polysaccharide. The spherical gel is obtained by bringing liquid drops of a mixed aqueous solution of (A) a polyvinyl alcohol (preferably one having  $\geq 1,000$  average polymerization degree) and (B) a water-soluble polymer polysaccharide (especially preferably an alkali metal salt of alginic acid) capable of gelatinizing by contact with a cation into contact with (C) a cation compound to form the liquid drops into a spherical shape. Then, the component A is acetalized. The acetalization is carried out by bringing the spherical formed material into contact with an aqueous solution containing an aldehyde compound and an acid.

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